Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for generating a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision by a stereoscopic image generating apparatus, said method comprising:

a ~~processed~~ region extraction step of extracting ~~a more inconspicuous region as a processed region by~~left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image and identifying ~~the~~a more inconspicuous region between the left and right target ~~regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image;~~regions; and

a ~~processed~~ region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make ~~more inconspicuous~~ the ~~processed~~ region ~~extracted~~identified in the ~~processed~~ region extraction step even more inconspicuous than the ~~target~~remaining regions ~~except for~~of the ~~processed region.~~target regions.

2.   (Currently Amended) A method for generating a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision by a stereoscopic image generating apparatus, said method comprising:

a ~~processed~~ region extraction step of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display ~~plane as a processed region;~~plane; and

a ~~processed~~ region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make ~~more inconspicuous~~ the ~~processed~~

~~region~~regions extracted in the ~~processed~~region extraction step <u>even more inconspicuous</u> than

the ~~target~~remaining regions ~~except for~~<u>of</u> the ~~processed region.~~regions.

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images ~~so as to make more~~

~~inconspicuous~~ is a processing of blurring the ~~processed region.~~<u>region identified in the region</u>

<u>extraction step.</u>

5.   (Currently Amended) The generating method as claimed in claim 2, wherein

the processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images ~~so as to make more~~

~~inconspicuous~~is a processing of blurring the ~~processed region.~~<u>region identified in the region</u>

<u>extraction step.</u>

6.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images ~~so as to make more~~

~~inconspicuous~~is a processing of reducing contrast of the ~~processed region.~~ <u>region identified</u>

<u>in the region extraction step.</u>

7.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the

processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images ~~so as to make more~~

~~inconspicuous~~is a processing of reducing contrast of the ~~processed region.~~ <u>region identified</u>

<u>in the region extraction step.</u>

8.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images ~~so as to make more~~

~~inconspicuous~~is a processing of reducing saturation or brightness of the ~~processed region.~~

<u>region identified in the region extraction step.</u>

9.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the

processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images ~~so as to make more~~

~~inconspicuous~~ is a processing of reducing saturation or brightness of the ~~processed region.~~ region identified in the region extraction step.

10.   (Currently Amended) The generating method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images ~~so as to make more inconspicuous~~ is a processing of bringing a hue of the ~~processed~~ region identified in the region extraction step to a cold color family.

11.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images ~~so as to make more inconspicuous~~ is a processing of bringing a hue of the ~~processed~~ region identified in the region extraction step close to a cold color family.

12.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images ~~so as to make more inconspicuous~~ is a processing of bringing a hue, saturation or brightness of the ~~processed~~ region identified in the region extraction step close to a hue, saturation or brightness of the ~~target~~ remaining regions ~~except for~~of the ~~processed region.~~target regions.

13.   (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, the stereoscopic image set of images being processed so as to ~~make~~make a more inconspicuous region between left and right target regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display plane even more inconspicuous than the ~~target~~ remaining regions ~~except for~~of the ~~processed region.~~target regions.

14.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the processing of generating a stereoscopic image set of images so as to make more inconspicuous is one of or a combination of the following processings:

(1)   processing of blurring the ~~processed~~ region;

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(2)   processing of reducing contrast of the ~~processed region;~~region identified in the region extraction step;

(3)   processing of reducing saturation or brightness of the ~~removed region;~~region identified in the region extraction step;

(4)   processing of bringing a hue of the ~~processed~~ region identified in the region extraction step close to a cold color family; and

(5)   processing of bringing a hue, saturation or brightness of the ~~processed~~ region identified in the region extraction step close to a hue, saturation or brightness of the ~~target~~remaining regions ~~except for~~of the ~~processed region.~~target regions.

15.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the processing of generating a stereoscopic image set of images ~~so as to make more inconspicuous~~is one of or a combination of the following processings:

(1)   processing of blurring the ~~processed region;~~region identified in the region extraction step;

(2)   processing of reducing contrast of the ~~processed region;~~region identified in the region extraction step;

(3)   processing of reducing saturation or brightness of the ~~processed region;~~region identified in the region extraction step;

(4)   processing of bringing a hue of the ~~processed~~ region identified in the region extraction step close to a cold color family; and

(5)   processing of bringing a hue, saturation or brightness of the ~~processed~~ region identified in the region extraction step close to a hue, saturation or brightness of the ~~target~~remaining regions ~~except for~~of the ~~processed region.~~target regions.

16.   (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic image generating apparatus for generating a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said stereoscopic image generating apparatus comprising:

~~processed~~ region extraction means of extracting left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image ~~a more inconspicuous region as a processed region by~~and identifying ~~the~~a more inconspicuous region between the left and right target ~~regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image;~~regions; and

a ~~processed~~ region processing means for carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make ~~more inconspicuous~~ the ~~processed~~ region ~~extracted~~ identified in the ~~processed~~ region extraction ~~means~~ step even more inconspicuous than the ~~target~~ remaining regions ~~except for~~of the ~~processed region.~~target regions.

17.   (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic image generating apparatus for generating a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said stereoscopic image generating apparatus comprising:

a ~~processed~~ region extraction means of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display ~~plane as a processed region;~~plane; and

a ~~processed~~ region processing means of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make ~~more inconspicuous~~ the ~~processed region~~regions ~~identified by said processed region extraction means~~extracted in the region extraction step even more inconspicuous than the ~~target~~remaining regions ~~except for~~of the ~~processed region.~~regions.

18. (Currently Amended) A stereoscopic viewing method of watching a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision by a stereoscopic image generating apparatus, said stereoscopic viewing method comprising:

a ~~processed~~ region extraction step of extracting <u>left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image and</u> ~~a more inconspicuous region as a processed region by~~ identifying ~~the~~ <u>a</u> more inconspicuous region between <u>the</u> left and right target ~~regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image;~~<u>regions;</u> and

a ~~processed~~ region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make ~~more inconspicuous~~ the ~~processed~~ region ~~extracted~~ <u>identified</u> in the ~~processed~~ region extraction step <u>even more inconspicuous</u> than the ~~target~~ <u>remaining</u> regions ~~except for~~<u>of</u> the ~~processed region.~~<u>target regions.</u>

19. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision by a stereoscopic image generating apparatus, said stereoscopic viewing method comprising:

a ~~processed~~ region extraction step of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display ~~plane as a processed region;~~<u>plane;</u> and

a ~~processed~~ region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make ~~more inconspicuous~~ the ~~processed region~~<u>processed regions</u> extracted in the ~~processed~~ region extraction step <u>even more inconspicuous</u> than the ~~target~~ <u>remaining</u> regions ~~except for~~<u>of</u> the ~~processed region.~~<u>regions.</u>

20.　(Currently Amended)　A stereoscopic viewing apparatus for showing a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said stereoscopic viewing apparatus comprising:

~~processed~~ region extraction means of extracting <u>left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image</u> ~~a more inconspicuous region as a processed region by~~ <u>and</u> identifying ~~the~~ <u>a</u> more inconspicuous region between <u>the</u> left and right target ~~regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image;~~<u>regions;</u> and

a ~~processed~~ region processing means for carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make ~~more inconspicuous~~ the ~~processed~~ region ~~extracted~~ <u>identified</u> in the ~~processed~~ region extraction ~~means~~<u>step</u> even more inconspicuous than the ~~target~~<u>remaining</u> regions ~~except for~~<u>of</u> the ~~processed region.~~<u>target regions.</u>

21.　(Currently Amended)　A apparatus for generating a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said apparatus comprising:

a ~~processed~~ region extraction means of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display ~~plane as a processed region;~~<u>plane;</u> and

a ~~processed~~ region processing means of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make ~~more inconspicuous~~ the ~~processed~~ ~~region~~<u>regions</u> extracted in the ~~processed~~ region extraction ~~means~~<u>step</u> even more inconspicuous than the ~~target~~<u>remaining</u> regions ~~except for~~<u>of</u> the ~~processed region.~~<u>regions.</u>

22.　(Currently Amended)　A computer readable medium storing a program for controlling a apparatus for generating a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image

and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said program causing a stereoscopic image generating apparatus to execute:

a ~~processed~~ region extraction step of extracting left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image ~~a more inconspicuous region as a processed by~~ and identifying ~~the~~ a more inconspicuous region between the left and right target ~~regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image;~~ regions; and

a ~~processed~~ region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make ~~more inconspicuous~~ the ~~processed~~ region ~~extracted~~ identified in the ~~processed~~ region extraction step even more inconspicuous than the ~~target~~ remaining regions ~~except for~~ of the ~~processed region.~~ target regions.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a program for controlling an apparatus for generating a stereoscopic image set of images having a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, said program causing said stereoscopic image generating apparatus to execute:

a ~~processed~~ region extraction step of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display ~~plane as a processed region;~~ plane; and

a ~~processed~~ region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make ~~more inconspicuous~~ the ~~processed~~ ~~region~~ regions extracted in the ~~processed~~ region extraction step even more inconspicuous than the ~~target~~ remaining regions ~~except for~~ of the ~~processed region.~~ regions.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a stereoscopic image set of images which has a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, and forms a virtual stereoscopic image by vergence angles generated from individual points corresponding in the

left image and the right image by a stereoscopic image generating apparatus, said method comprising:

a ~~processed~~ region extraction step of extracting <u>left and right target regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image</u> ~~a more inconspicuous region as a processed region by~~<u>and</u> identifying ~~the~~<u>a</u> more inconspicuous region between <u>the</u> left and right target ~~regions which do not include a pair of fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image;~~<u>regions;</u>

a ~~processed~~ region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make ~~more inconspicuous~~ the ~~processed~~ region ~~extracted~~<u>identified</u> in the ~~processed~~ region extraction step<u> even more inconspicuous</u> than the ~~target~~<u>remaining</u> regions ~~except for~~<u>of</u> the ~~processed region;~~<u>target regions;</u> and

a vergence angle modifying step of increasing a stereoscopic effect by carrying out deformation processing of a left image and a right image of a stereoscopic image set of images which are prepared in advance to form the virtual stereoscopic image, by increasing or decreasing the vergence angles generated by the individual points of the stereoscopic image set of images according to a prescribed rule, and by altering a depth of the virtual stereoscopic image.

25.   (Currently Amended) A method for generating a stereoscopic image set of images which has a left image and a right image for stereoscopic vision, and forms a virtual stereoscopic image by vergence angles generated from individual points corresponding in the left image and the right image by a stereoscopic image generating apparatus, said method comprising:

a ~~processed~~ region extraction step of extracting left and right regions which do not include fused points corresponding to each other in the left image and the right image which are displayed on a display ~~plane as a processed region;~~<u>plane;</u>

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a ~~processed~~ region processing step of carrying out processing of generating the stereoscopic image set of images so as to make ~~more inconspicuous~~ the ~~processed region~~regions extracted in the ~~processed~~ region extraction step <u>even more inconspicuous</u> than the ~~target~~<u>remaining</u> regions ~~except for~~<u>of</u> the ~~processed region;~~<u>regions;</u> and

a vergence angle modifying step of increasing a stereoscopic effect by carrying out deformation processing of a left image and a right image of a stereoscopic image which are prepared in advance to form the virtual stereoscopic image, by increasing or decreasing the vergence angles generated by the individual points of the stereoscopic image set of images according to a prescribed rule, and by altering a depth of the virtual stereoscopic image.